

her \$416 Social Security check. Because of the high costs. Ms. Carson has had to skip or cut back on medications. She is only taking half of her prescribed blood thinner, and has had to skip her arthritis medicine because she was not able to fill the prescription.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, Ms. Carson's problem is a common one for seniors across my District and across the country. Because of the high cost of prescription drugs, seniors often have to take half of what the doctor has told them to. Because of the high cost of prescription drugs, seniors often have to choose between taking their medicine and paying for food or their electricity. And because of the high cost of prescription drugs, our seniors are dying because they are too proud to ask their children to help them buy their medication.

Studies that have been done for several Members of Congress, including myself, over the last several months have shown, the prices seniors and other consumers are charged are on the average 106 percent more than what pharmaceutical companies charge their favored customers such as HMOs, insurance companies and the Federal Government. This just doesn't seem fair to me when you think about the fact that according to Industry ratings of Fortune 500 companies—pharmaceutical companies are the most profitable businesses in existence. They made \$24.5 billion in profits last year. Pharmaceutical companies had a 17.2 percent return on revenues. Telecommunication companies, 8.1 percent; computers and office equipment manufacturers, 7.3 percent; food and drug stores made a whopping 1.7 percent.

One might think the success of pharmaceutical companies would be of tremendous benefit to American consumers. The reward: This year consumers have faced the highest two, monthly increases in prescription drug prices on record.

Earlier this week, I chaired the first meeting of the Prescription Drug Task Force because of the increasing importance of the issue. Also, last week I introduced legislation with Congressman TOM ALLEN that would allow senior citizens who are Medicare beneficiaries to purchase prescription drugs at the low prices available to Federal agencies under the Federal Supply Schedule.

For the remainder of this session of Congress and continuing into the 106th Congress, the task force will work to bring attention to issues involving the costs and availability of prescription drugs. The task force will serve the purpose of complementing our legislation and is open to finding new policy recommendations. It will be an advocate for consumers and ensuring competition within the industry.

All Members of Congress should stop and think about the blatant unfairness seniors face every day when they go to purchase their prescription drugs—medication they need to stay well and to stay alive. This is not an issue that will just go away. We should stand up for our seniors who are getting ripped off by pharmaceutical companies and ensure that they are not charged more than they should be for their medication.

## CHRIST CHURCH OF ACCOKEEK 300TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 300th Anniversary of Christ Church of Accokeek, Maryland, built by the Church of England, and one of six pre-Revolutionary War churches. It is believed this church congregation held their first prayer meetings sometime in 1698 in private homes with their first formal church structure being built a few years later.

Mr. Speaker, as I am sure you can imagine, Christ Church has weathered countless trials and tribulations through its 300 years of existence. Early settlers triumphed over the harshness of the 1700's, the separation from the Church of England, and the invasion of troops during the War of 1812. Christ Church's survival over the decades shows the uniqueness of the community of Accokeek.

In 300 years of existence there have been vast changes in liturgical theologies. In the early days the dictates of theology permitted no music, no stained glass or colored windows and only box type pews. Today, Christ Church radiates this same simplicity and symmetry with the addition of beautiful stained glass, music, conventional pews, and a bell tower. The ornate Holy Services offered now at Christ Church are a reflection of strong roots and faith of its members. A quality that has been strong enough to trickle down and bless the numerous generations of this Maryland community.

Christ Church makes a rich contribution to the history of Maryland and our great Nation. It sits as a symbol of the great sacrifices made by the early settlers to exercise their religious beliefs and through the years the clergy has worked tirelessly to minister to the people of the region during good times and bad.

Christ Church has seen years and years of families and neighbors coming together for convocations and picnics, weddings and funerals, for comfort and direction. In the words of an early Accokeek resident, Mr. Henry Williams (1862–1936) on speaking of the importance of this church to the community, "I think it has quite a bright future before it—good roads, good schools, and a dear old church."

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join with me in wishing this "dear old church", the Christ Church of Accokeek, congratulations on their 300th Year Anniversary.

## TRIBUTE TO BOBBY RUSH

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate a dear and close friend of mine, the national and international known Mr. Bobby Rush. On November 9 at the House of Blues in Los Angeles, California, Bobby Rush will receive the Blue Foundation's second annual "B.B. King Blues Hero" Award during the Lifetime Achievement Ceremony.

The B.B. King Blues Hero Award was established in 1997 by the Blues Foundation to recognize a Blues artist whose career has been characterized by community service and charitable activity. As the recipient of the award, Bobby will receive an honorarium, as is characteristic of his goodness and concern for young people, is donating his honorarium to a program to provide computers for Mississippi classrooms.

While Bobby Rush is known for his amazing stage show and outstanding performances on the 21 releases that span his career, few people know of Rush's dedication to his community in Jackson, Mississippi. For years Bobby has taken time off the road to use his tour bus to transport people to the polls on Election Day, participates in voter registration drives, and encourages young people to be civic minded and help in their communities, which I truly appreciate. He also has played functions to raise money for sickle cell anemia research, child care, school band uniforms, and musical equipment for local students.

Bobby Rush promotes the Blues by participating in the Blues in the Schools programs nationwide. During Black History Month, Bobby visits schools throughout Mississippi and Alabama. He also volunteers his own home as an emergency shelter for children leaving the Hinds County Youth Correctional Facility in Raymond, Mississippi.

With professional accomplishments and personal acts of humanitarianism such as these, I am truly proud and honored to stand here and extend congratulations to my friend Mr. Bobby Rush. He is truly a credit to America, his community, and his art.

## HONORING MR. BENJAMIN S. PURSER, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Benjamin S. Purser, Jr. and his service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Department of Justice.

Mr. Purser will retire from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), after twenty-eight years of faithful service, on October 3, 1998. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Purser, a native Tennessean, now serves as a Senior Supervisory Resident Agent for the agency in Nashville, with oversight responsibility for all operations and investigations in Middle Tennessee. He began his career with the FBI in 1970, and following training, was assigned to offices in Baltimore, Maryland, and New York City. During his ten years in New York, Mr. Purser was assigned to the Organized Crime Division where he earned significant investigation expertise relating to white-collar and violent crime, and health care fraud.

Mr. Purser gained notoriety throughout the South in the late 1980's and early 1990's, when he supervised "Rocky Top," a sensitive and complicated undercover investigation of public corruption, which focused on abuse of

power by Tennessee public officials. This investigation resulted in the conviction of sixty-five state officials in U.S. District Court. He is also credited with forming the Violent Crimes Task Force in 1994, a successful partnership of six federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

In 1996, Mr. Purser received both the FBI Medal of Valor, the organization's highest award to acknowledge bravery and courage, and the FBI Star, the equivalent of a Purple Heart, for his intervention in an attempted car jacking and kidnaping that occurred in 1984. A fugitive on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list was killed during the incident.

In an age where character and courage are often overlooked, I would like to commend my fellow Tennessean, and good friend since our university days, on his years of outstanding service to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and our nation. I applaud him for pursuing justice, no matter the cost.

Mr. Purser's leadership skills have benefited his agency, and the people of Tennessee. He has served as an example of fortitude to his peers and his family. I wish him the best in his retirement from the FBI.

#### CELEBRATING THE CHURCH OF ST. THERESE OF THE LITTLE FLOWER

##### HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Church of St. Therese of the Little Flower in Reno, Nevada, on the milestone achievement of its Golden Jubilee. Today, October 1st, marks fifty years of the Church's service to Nevadans. Today is also the Church's celebration of the Feast of St. Therese of the Little Flower.

This rare occasion will be celebrated with a special Mass, complete with fifty years of church music, and a banquet. The Mass is a beautiful and fitting way to intertwine its rich tradition of history, family, music, prayer, worship, thanksgiving, and most of all, reverence to God.

While I was growing up in Reno, the Little Flower Church occupied much smaller quarters. Today, the church is among the most modern structures in Reno, and is a widely recognized landmark in its southeast neighborhood. And, like a beautiful flower, the parish has blossomed to 3,500 families. The Church of the Little Flower's congregation is diverse and welcoming, reflecting Reno's tremendous population growth in the last twenty years.

Little Flower Church is the focal point for quality education for the local children and a variety of ministries to help the sick, elderly, and inmates at the Washoe County Jail. Truly, Little Flower Church is dedicated to the spiritual and physical needs of all people.

I would also like to congratulate the pastor of the Little Flower Church, the Very Reverend Robert Bowling, on his remarkable twenty-four years of selfless service to this parish. Father Bowling has guided the Little Flower Church through its growth period. Because of his hard work and strong guidance at Little Flower, he has the admiration, support, love, and respect of the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the parish of the Church of St. The-

rese of the Little Flower all the best on this very important day.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROLAND MANTEIGA

##### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my community is in mourning. We are saddened by the passing of Roland Manteiga, one of the most prolific, influential and admired chroniclers of politics and history in my hometown of Tampa.

For decades, you could count on walking into La Tropicana in the morning and at lunch and seeing Roland dressed in his trademark white suit sitting at his private table chatting with leaders of our community. Without fail, he always knew what was going on in Tampa politics and he faithfully shared it with his readers every week in his newspaper, La Gaceta. His "As We Hear It" column was a must read for thousands. If you wanted to know the pulse of the town, you read Roland.

The passion for the news business grabbed Roland early and hooked him. As a young boy, he started working for the paper his father, Victoriano, started in 1922. Except for his distinguished service in World War II, he spent his life at the paper and became its owner when his father died in 1982. He transformed the paper into the only trilingual weekly newspaper in the country. In addition to political news, Roland's paper was the voice of the Latin community and reported on it better than anyone. La Gaceta thoroughly documented the story of the immigrants who came to Tampa and contributed so much to the fabric of our community.

Roland's work won him many awards and recognitions, including Citizen of the Year and Hispanic Man of the Year. But typical of his self-effacing style, he always downplayed his importance to our town. His genteel manner made him equally as comfortable with presidents and governors as he was with store clerks and construction workers. And that's just one of the qualities that endeared him to so many people.

I think Ferdie Pacheco, the "Fight Doctor," summed up Roland's contributions to our community best when he wrote, "Years from now, when we are all gone, the historians will know exactly how we were and who we were because of the lifetime of dedicated work of one man."

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for everyone at home when I say that we will miss our dear friend, Roland. May he rest in peace.

#### CARING, EXCELLENCE, & ACCOMPLISHMENT

##### HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, during our lives we may be privileged to meet people who make a difference, people who believe that it is far more important to accomplish something

for the community than to accomplish something for themselves. We have been most fortunate to have been the beneficiaries of two extraordinary gentlemen, who just happen to be father and son—Hans Jeppesen, Sr., and Hans Jeppesen, Jr. Since 1954, these two men have been the heart and soul of Bay Health Systems, a leading and outstanding health care provider within my District. They are being honored on October 4 with the dedication of the Jeppesen Radiation Oncology Center at Bay Health Systems.

Hans Christian Jeppesen became the leader of General Hospital in 1954. He worked to make sure that General Hospital was the best source of health care until a merger with Mercy Hospital in 1972, creating Bay Medical Center. Having instilled a vital sense of confidence and capability in his employees, Hans Jeppesen established a standard of care and competence that was a model for others in the health care community. He passed away in 1973.

His son, Hans Jeppesen, II, began his career in health care as an administrative resident in 1964 at Wellborn Baptist Memorial Hospital in Evansville, Indiana, and first came professionally to Bay City in 1966. After terms as Assistant and Associate Administrator, he rose to Executive Vice President of Bay Medical Center in 1973, and to President in 1975. Since 1986, he has been President of Bay Health Systems, the parent company for Bay Medical Center, Bay Health Care, Bay Medical Services, Bay Medical Foundation, and Bay Special Care. He is credited with overseeing the merger of Bay Medical Center with Samaritan Hospital in 1979, and in 1988 with Bay Osteopathic Hospital, a very rare occurrence of the merger of four hospitals.

The community has also benefited from his willingness to work with many organizations. In particular, his concern for young people and women has made him a leader in Junior Achievement, Big Brothers, YMCA Youth Programs, and the Bay County Women's Center. He has been an outstanding role model for his five children, Jeff, Mary, Hans, Karen, and Niels, and his two grandchildren, Madeline and Meredith.

With two lifetimes of dedication, it is most fitting that the Radiation Oncology Center bear the name "Jeppesen", as a symbol of caring, excellence, and accomplishment. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in celebration of the Jeppesen Radiation Oncology Center at the Bay Health Systems West Campus.

#### TRIBUTE TO TONY MOCERI

##### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 1, 1998*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anthony (Tony) Mocer. The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 363 in Belleville, Illinois is naming their new hall for Tony Mocer.

Tony Mocer is a great union member. He earned his union card in San Francisco and was initiated into Lodge 363 in 1942. Tony was a dedicated, hardworking member until his retirement in 1984. Mr. Mocer was elected Lodge Assistant Business Agent in 1963 and